

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Funds Transcripts

Tate Gould, Senior Program Officer for the State Longitudinal Data System Grant Program, Institute of Education Sciences

So, I'm talking about the data systems work and basically how the SLDS grant application overlaps with the SFSF and the Race To The Top. The data system work is the fourth assurance as Maura mentioned and although we have the smallest piece of the pie that you saw earlier, we do feel like the data system effort and initiative crosses over the other three assurances. As Representative George Miller and Secretary Duncan mentioned this spring, the health care industry, the health industry and education are the last two major industries where data is not used and the time of anecdotal evidence for making decisions has to end and I think we realize, I know when I was a teacher using data, even as a math teacher, using data on a day to day decision, that wasn't what we did. It was anecdotal evidence. So this effort and getting data in the hands of teachers and the hands of principals, policymakers and stakeholders is a major effort and we're really excited about the commitment of the Department to support states. We should add that in all of these assurances, the data system effort, and in the competitions that we've had with the SLDS competitions, that the data systems are not report more data up to the federal government. In fact, most of the data system work is to improve the data communications between the district and the state. So the efforts are really at the state level. The requirements in the SLDS application, which is coming up actually December 4th, overlaps with SFSF in many ways. The direct relationship are the indicators as Jessica worked on this in terms of looking at the SFSF indicators and the SLDS application. The America Competes Act, the twelve elements of the America Competes Act are one of the direct overlaps between the two applications and those twelve elements are divided in three divisions; one is for the K12 elements, the other is for K12 and post secondary elements and the other is four the P20 elements and P20 used to refer to the early childhood to K12 to post secondary workforce. So those elements, the improving the collection and use of data are in both the SFSF and the SLDS applications. Then the others, the standards and assessment, the course completion, that's another direct overlap between the language you'll see in the SLDS application and the SFSF II application. Other areas where the SFSF indicators are dependent, in terms of, possibly not a one to one match, but definitely dependent on each other's applications, are the other assurance areas, the standards and assessment from struggling school collection and use, achieving equity. So the purpose, and you'll see in the SLDS application, the purposes overlap and there's a direct alignment in a lot of these efforts and a lot of the initiatives of what we're trying to do with the SLDS application and the SFSF application. In terms of the key differences; the first is who applies and the governor is obviously the applicant for the SFSF application, but the State Education Agency, and I should add the K12 State Education Agency is the direct applicant and the only applicant for the SLDS application. That requirement has received some push back because the SLDS application says we want a state to build a P20 system, so we're asking for post secondary agencies, early childhood, workforce, K12, to work together. The legislation that set up the grant itself, that's a requirement we have for the K12 State Education Agency as the applicant.

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But the independent reviewers, and thankfully I'm not one of those, they are being oriented and instructed to say how is the applicant demonstrating that they are working, the applicant being the K12 SEA, working with all the other state agencies in the state, whether that's through the letters of support, the evidence, the memorandums of understanding, all the different pieces of evidence that are supported in the application, how is that demonstrated they work together. The other difference is the formula versus competitive. In this room alone we've got ten out of eleven states represented, have competitive SLDS grants. We've had three other competitions, so we're very excited about that and the competitions I think we're averaging about a 40% acceptance rate for the applications. So in some ways it's a highly competitive application process, but we're really excited about it, especially in this room, how many states are represented. In terms of how many states, Jessica's got the 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico. Ours being the SLDS will be dependent on the ask of the applicants. We have 250 million dollars to give out. But we do have a 20 million dollar cap. We expect 10 million dollars is the average ask. So it does depend on the quality of the application and what's included. When is it due? January 11th is for SLDS, December 4th is for the SLDS. It was originally November 19th, which was tomorrow, and then we moved it to make sure there was alignment between the Race To The Top, SLDS and the SFSF applications. In fact, in the office we all had a, not a contest, but we all were hoping to send out the email to say you have an extra two weeks and Emily won and she got to send it out and she made a lot of new friends that day. So the type of awards are grants. Ours, the SLDS is a cooperative agreement. It is a type of discretionary grant, but it is a cooperative agreement, meaning we get to work, there's a flexibility in the delivery of the grant, but we have a very close working relationship with each grantee. There's a couple people in this room that were at our grantee conference on Monday and Tuesday. I speak with folks like Leanne and everyone in your state on a daily basis about the grant. So we have a very close working relationship in the sense that we realize that the power of these SLDS systems, the experts are the states, so the more we can connect the states with each other and the more we can facilitate the more successful this effort will be. I'm going to turn this back over to Maura.



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